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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Jueterbog Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED PREPARED 15 October 1954

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REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Jueterbog airfield between 13 and 23 September 1954:

13 September. At 1500, 16 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were being towed from the western hangars to the east end of the runway. Take-offs in elements of two were made after 1600. Shortly after the take-off, two elements assembled in a formation of four and practiced flying for 25 to 30 minutes. The next two elements took off after 12 to 18 minutes. Air activity continued until about 1800.

14 September. At 1000, 20 jet fighters were towed out of the northern hangars to the east end of the runway. After 1030, take-offs were made by individual aircraft and elements of two, at intervals of 10 to 15 minutes. The aircraft flew individually and in elements of two up to 1200. After 1300, the aircraft took off only in elements of two, assembled in formations of four and then practiced formation flying. In the meantime, a jet fighter towed a sleeve target which was attacked by 2 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s. Each aircraft fired 2 rounds. This exercise was repeated several times up to 1900.

15 September. There was no air activity throughout the day. After nightfall, there was air activity by jet fighters, but no details could be observed.

16 September. No air activity was observed.¹

17 September. There was no air activity by jet fighters. At 1100, 2 Il-28s without auxiliary fuel tanks landed at the field and were parked in front of the southern hangar. Between 1600 and 1635, an Il-28 with a sleeve target took off. Light AA guns fired at the towed sleeve target over the firing range. The towing plane dropped the sleeve target about 300 meters over the field and then landed. Subsequently, a second Il-28 with a sleeve target took off and remained aloft for about 30 minutes. Firing practices at the towed air sleeve were again conducted over the firing range.

18 September. There was no air activity by jet fighters. Between 1100 and 1200, the two Il-28s took off once and towed a sleeve target over the firing range. Light AA guns fired at the towed target. At 1400, the two aircraft again took off and disappeared toward the east.²

20 September. At 0800 a siren sounded and an alert practice started. All the jet fighters were parked in the revetments at the edge of the field and in the woods where they were camouflaged by branches. At the same time, 8 jet fighters were towed out of the southern hangar and parked along the runway at intervals of about 100 meters. These aircraft were also camouflaged with branches and tarpaulins. During the alert, each jet fighter made one local flight of 10 to 15 minutes duration. The officers and EM were fitted with gas masks. The alert practice was completed at 0930, when the siren again sounded.³ At 1100, two Il-28s landed at the field

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and were parked in front of the southern hangar. At 1300, an Il-28 took off and towed a sleeve target over the firing range, where the air sleeve was attacked by light AA guns. The aircraft landed at 1335. Subsequently, the second Il-28 took off and repeated the same exercise during a flight time of about 30 minutes. The same procedure was repeated by two aircraft between 1600 and 1710. Then, the aircraft were covered with tarpaulins and parked in front of the southern hangar.

21 September. At 1400, two Il-28s took off at intervals of 3 minutes and towed sleeve targets over the firing range. One aircraft flew at a very high altitude and its sleeve target was fired at by a heavy AA gun. The other Il-28 flew at lower altitudes and its sleeve target was attacked by light AA guns. The heavy AA gun fired 5 rounds while the aircraft circled six times within about 30 minutes. The exercise was repeated between 1600 and 1730. Subsequently, the two aircraft were parked in front of the southern hangar.

22 September. At 1100, two Il-28s took off and headed east. About 2030, a MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 was aloft towing a sleeve target which flew in the beams of four searchlights over the firing range. Light AA guns fired at the sleeve target. The exercise lasted until about midnight. Several jet fighters towing sleeve targets made eight approaches at the AA gun emplacement. 23 September. There was no air activity by jet fighters. Two Il-28s landed at 1000. Between 1230 and 1300, an Il-28 towing a sleeve target flew over the firing range. Subsequently, the second Il-28 was observed aloft and towed a sleeve target for 30 minutes. After the landings, the two aircraft were parked in front of the southern hangar.²

2. At 1000 on 22 September, 12 tank trucks moved to the fuel dump.

1. Comment. It is believed that Jueterbog airfield is still occupied by two fighter regiments. Training in flying and firing is carried out along the usual pattern.

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2. Comment. The employment of Il-28s as target representation for light and heavy AA guns has repeatedly been reported.

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3. Comment. Alert practices which were started and terminated upon the sound of a siren have repeatedly been reported from other airfields. Noteworthy is the information that the aircraft in the revetments and along the runway were camouflaged by tarpaulins and branches and the soldiers wore gas masks during the practice.

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